

State of Michigan
State Board of Education

RESOLUTION

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE WEEK

June 1-7, 2008

WHEREAS, for more than two months every year schools close their doors for summer vacation, and as a result hundreds of thousands of Michigan children who depend on school meals to meet a substantial amount of their daily nutrient needs lack access to school nutrition programs; and

WHEREAS, this lack of access to basic nutrition is most pronounced among the State's poorest children, who frequently have no alternative to school meals; and

WHEREAS, Congress established the Summer Food Service Program to ensure that children can continue to receive nutritious midday meals on school playgrounds and in parks, camps, and other sites where they traditionally gather during summer vacation; and

WHEREAS, far too few children take advantage of this important program, which serves fewer than 15 percent of the children who receive free and reduced-price meals during the school year; and

WHEREAS, to address this situation, the Michigan Department of Education has been working actively to increase the number of eligible schools, community and faith-based organizations, and other sponsors who offer the program to their communities; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the important efforts of organizations sponsoring summer meals programs, to heighten public awareness of the benefits of summer meals for poor communities, and to encourage additional eligible sponsors to participate, communities are called upon to recognize the important achievements of schools and organizations that sponsor summer meal programs and to ensure that children and their parents are aware of this benefit; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education strongly urges eligible schools and organizations to make this vital component of the nutrition safety net available in their communities; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education proclaim June 1-7, 2008, as Summer Food Service Week; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Summer Food Service Week be devoted to the recognition of everyone who contributes to the successful operation of our State's Summer Food Service Program; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this special week serve as a fitting time to urge all Michigan citizens to become more aware of the importance of Summer Food Service Program and its role in the educational environment.



Adopted April 8, 2008

Kathleen N. Straus, President

Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman and
Superintendent of Public Instruction